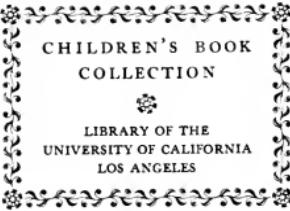


THE STORY
OF
THE CAT AND THE MOUSE.

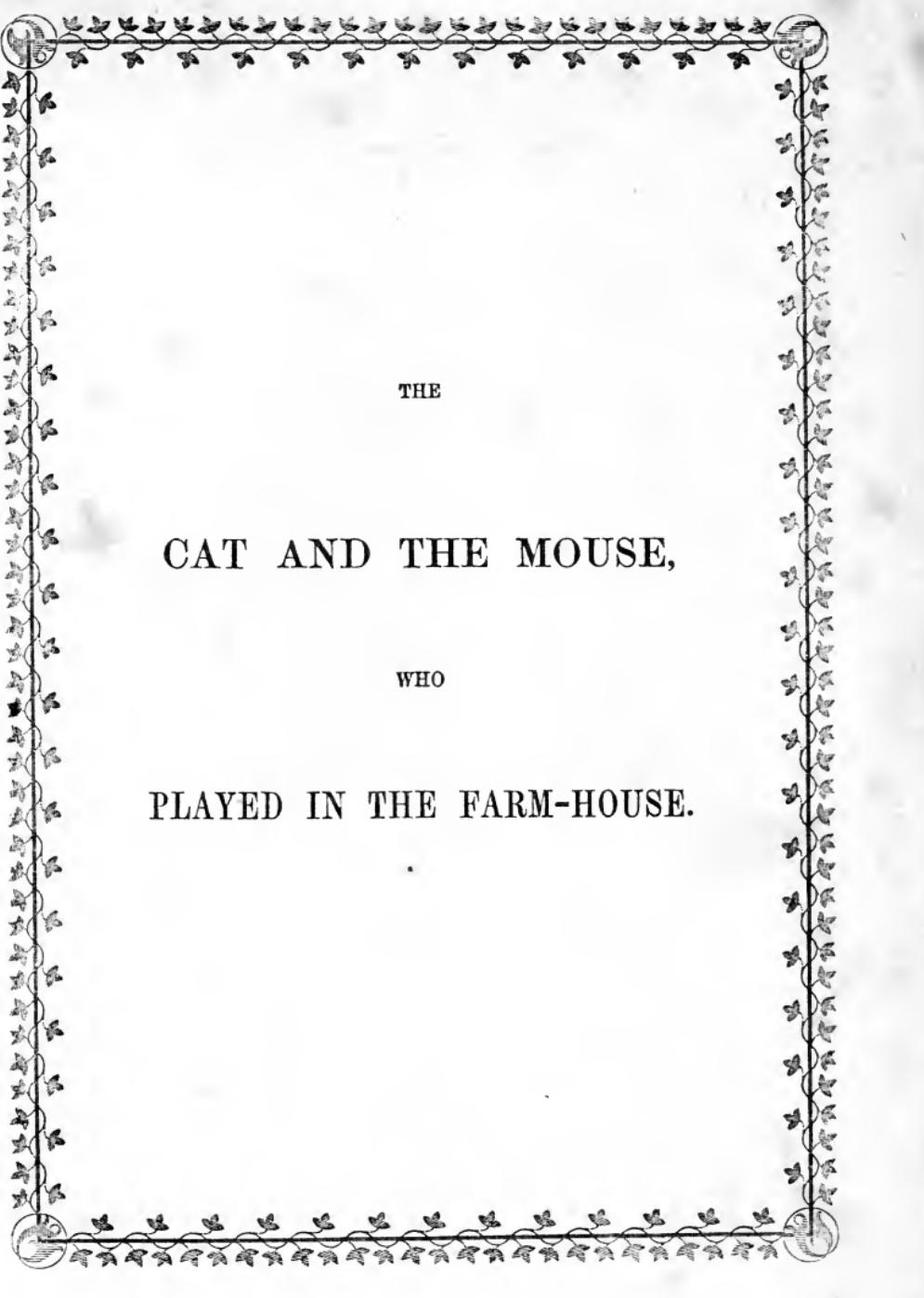


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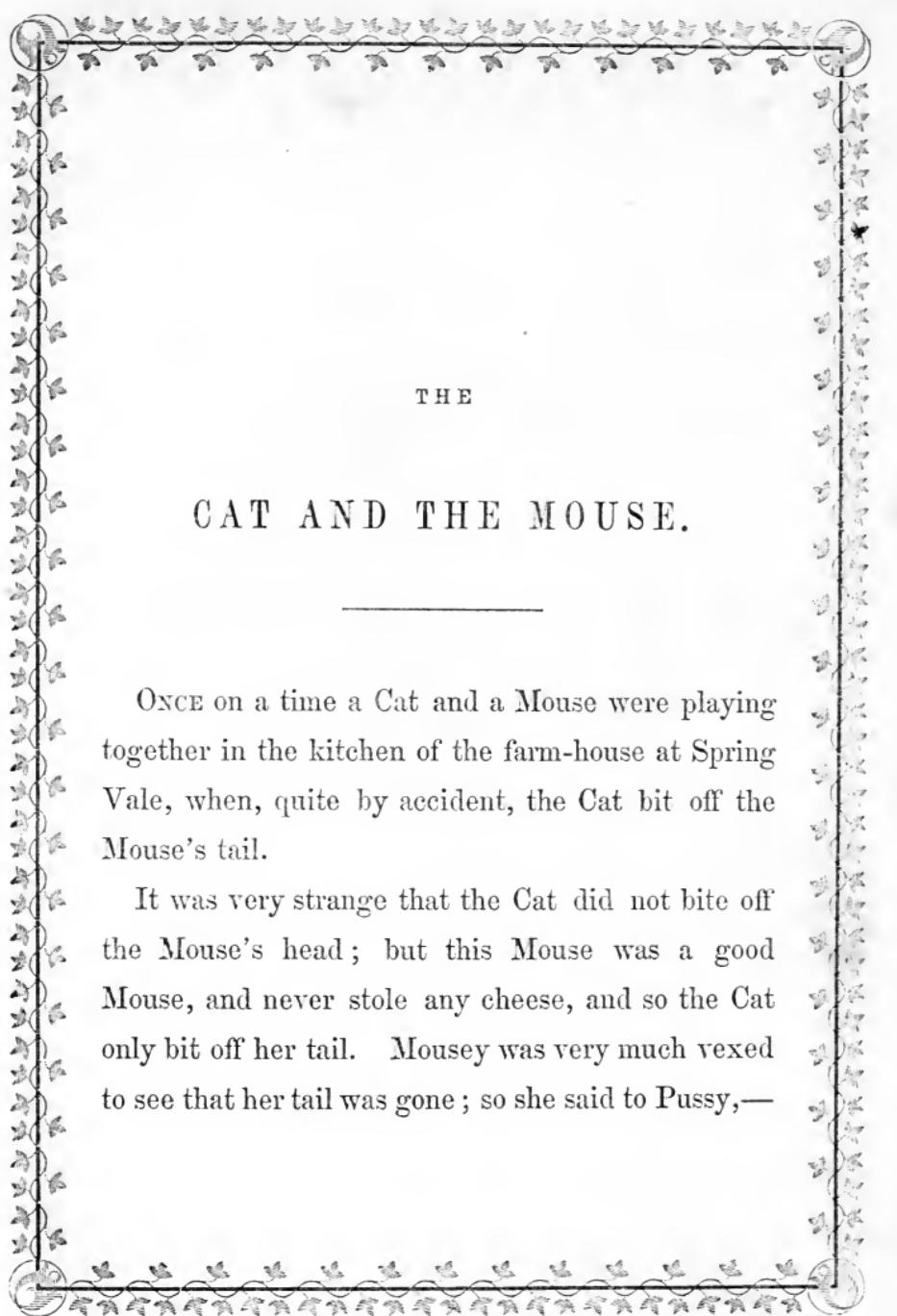


THE
CAT AND THE MOUSE,
WHO
PLAYED IN THE FARM-HOUSE.

ILLUSTRATED WITH SIX DRAWINGS BY JOHN ABSOLON
AND HARRISON WEIR.

ENGRAVED BY WILLIAM ROBERTS.





THE

CAT AND THE MOUSE.

ONCE on a time a Cat and a Mouse were playing together in the kitchen of the farm-house at Spring Vale, when, quite by accident, the Cat bit off the Mouse's tail.

It was very strange that the Cat did not bite off the Mouse's head; but this Mouse was a good Mouse, and never stole any cheese, and so the Cat only bit off her tail. Mousey was very much vexed to see that her tail was gone; so she said to Pussy,—

“Oh, dear Pussy! do give me my tail again.”

“No, that I will not,” said Pussy, “till you get me some milk for my breakfast.”

“Oh, Brindle will give me some,” said Mousey.

So she frisked, and jumped, and then she ran
Till she came to old Brindle, and thus began: —



“Please, Brindle, give me some milk ; I want to give Pussy milk, and Pussy will give me my own tail again.”

“So I will, Mousey, if you get me some hay for my breakfast,” said Brindle.

“Oh, Bob Rose will give me some !” said Mousey.

So she frisked, and jumped, and then she ran
Till she came to Bob Rose, and thus began :—



“Please, Mr. Rose, give me some hay; I want to give Brindle hay. Brindle will give me some milk, I will give Pussy milk, and Pussy will give me my own tail again.”

“So I will, Mousey, if you get me some bread for my breakfast,” said Bob Rose.

“Oh, Jack Hardy will give me some!” said Mousey.

So she frisked, and jumped, and then she ran
Till she came to Jack Hardy, and thus began:—



“Please, Mr. Hardy, give me some bread; I want to give Bob Rose bread. Bob Rose will give me some hay, I will give Brindle hay; Brindle will give me some milk, I will give Pussy milk, and Pussy will give me my own tail again.”

“So I will, Mousey, if you get me some meat for my breakfast,” said Jack Hardy.

“Oh, Ned Lambkin will give me some!” said Mousey.

So she frisked, and jumped, and then she ran
Till she came to Ned Lambkin, and thus began:—



“Please, Mr. Lambkin, give me some meat ; I want to give Jack Hardy meat. Jack Hardy will give me some bread, I will give Bob Rose bread ; Bob Rose will give me some hay, I will give Brindle hay ; Brindle will give me some milk, I will give Pussy milk, and Pussy will give me my own tail again.”

“So I will, Mousey, if you will eat up the crumbs that have fallen at my breakfast,” said Ned Lambkin.

“Oh, that I will !” said Mousey ; and she soon cleared the floor of every crumb.



W. ALBERTS. SC.

Then Ned Lambkin gave Mousey some meat, and Mousey gave Jack Hardy the meat, and Jack Hardy gave Mousey some bread, and Mousey gave Bob Rose the bread, and Bob Rose gave Mousey some hay, and Mousey gave Brindle the hay, and Brindle gave Mousey some milk, and Mousey gave Pussy milk, and then Pussy gave Mousey

HER OWN TAIL AGAIN.



And she frisked, and jumped, and away she ran,
And cried out to Pussy, "Catch me if you can."



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